

§ 13.22

this paragraph, the applicant may file an appeal as provided in § 13.25.

[T.D. ATF-406, 64 FR 2129, Jan. 13, 1999, as amended by T.D. ATF-449, 66 FR 19085, Apr. 13, 2001]

§ 13.22 Withdrawal of applications.

A person who has filed an application for a certificate of label approval, certificate of exemption from label approval, or distinctive liquor bottle approval, may withdraw such application at any time before TTB takes action on the application.

§ 13.23 Notice of denial.

Whenever an application for a certificate of label approval, certificate of exemption from label approval, or distinctive liquor bottle approval is denied, the appropriate TTB officer must issue to the applicant a notice of denial on TTB Form 5190.1, entitled “TTB F 5100.31 Correction Sheet,” briefly setting forth the reasons why the label or bottle is not in compliance with the applicable laws or regulations. The applicant may then submit a new application for approval after making the necessary corrections.

[T.D. ATF-406, 64 FR 2129, Jan. 13, 1999, as amended by T.D. ATF-449, 66 FR 19085, Apr. 13, 2001]

§ 13.25 Appeal of qualification or denial.

(a) *Form of appeal.* If an applicant for a certificate of label approval, certificate of exemption from label approval, or distinctive liquor bottle approval wishes to appeal the qualified approval or denial of an application, the applicant may file a written appeal with the appropriate TTB officer within 45 days after the date of the notice of qualification or denial. The appeal should explain why the applicant believes that the label or bottle is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. If no appeal is filed within 45 days after the date of the notice of qualification or denial, the notice will be the final decision of TTB.

(b) *Informal resolution.* Applicants may choose to pursue informal resolution of disagreements regarding correction sheets or qualifications by requesting an informal conference with the appropriate TTB officer. However,

27 CFR Ch. I (4–1–10 Edition)

formal administrative appeals must comply with the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 13.26 Decision after appeal of qualification or denial.

(a) *Decision.* After considering any written arguments or evidence presented by the applicant, the appropriate TTB officer must issue a written decision to the applicant. If the decision is that the qualified approval or denial should stand, a copy of the application, marked “appeal denied,” must be returned to the applicant with an explanation of the decision and the specific laws or regulations relied upon in qualifying or denying the application. If the decision is that the certificate of label approval, certificate of exemption from label approval, or distinctive liquor bottle application should be approved without qualification, the applicant should resubmit TTB Form 5100.31 and the certificate will be issued.

(b) *Time limits for decision.* Within 90 days of receipt of an appeal, the appropriate TTB officer must notify the appellant whether the appeal has been granted or denied. If an applicant requests an informal conference as part of an appeal, as authorized in § 13.71, the 90-day period will begin 10 days after the date of the conference to allow for consideration of any written arguments, facts or evidence submitted after the conference. The appropriate TTB officer may extend this period of time once by an additional 90 days if he or she finds that unusual circumstances require additional time to consider the issues presented by an appeal. If the appropriate TTB officer extends the period, he or she must notify the applicant by letter, briefly explaining the issues presented by the label. If the appellant receives no decision from the appropriate TTB officer within the time periods set forth in this paragraph, the appellant may appeal as provided in § 13.27.

(c) *Judicial review.* Prior to applying to the Federal courts for review, an applicant must first exhaust his or her administrative remedies, including the appeal rights set forth in this section and § 13.27.